The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

- 1. In a networked system, a device that is a computer subsystem, comprising:
  one or more services executing in the device, each service including a port
  identifiable by an identifier that includes a uniform resource identifier and a contract for
  describing one or more behaviors of the service.
- 2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the one or more services comprise an information service, the information service being capable of producing a customizable, tagbased document for describing the capabilities of the device.
- 3. The device of Claim 1, wherein the one or more services comprise a data service, the data service being capable of storing input/output events generated by the device and further being capable of responding to queries regarding the input/output events.
  - 4. The device of Claim 1, further comprising a network device driver.
- 5. The device of Claim 1, further comprising a decentralized operating system on which the one or more services are executed.
  - 6. In a networked computer system, a terminal service, comprising:
- a display service with a port identifiable by an identifier that includes a uniform resource identifier and a contract for describing one or more behaviors of the display service.
- 7. The terminal service of Claim 6, wherein the display service includes a cursor shape service for describing the shape on an on-screen cursor, the cursor shape service including a port identifiable by an identifier that includes a uniform resource identifier and a contract for describing one or more behaviors of the cursor shape service.
- 8. The terminal service of Claim 6, wherein the display service includes a cursor position service for describing the position of an on-screen cursor, the cursor position service

MSFT\21952AP.DOC -23-

including a port identifiable by an identifier that includes a uniform resource identifier and a contract for describing one or more behaviors of the cursor position service.

- 9. The terminal service of Claim 6, wherein the display service includes a window service for describing a window, the window service including a port identifiable by an identifier that includes a uniform resource identifier and a contract for describing one or more behaviors of the window service.
- 10. The terminal service of Claim 9, wherein the display service includes a window list service for containing a list of window services appearing on a display, the window list service including a port identifiable by an identifier that includes a uniform resource identifier and a contract for describing one or more behaviors of the window list service.
- 11. The terminal service of Claim 10, wherein the display service includes a window update service for refreshing a window represented by a window service, the window update service including a port identifiable by an identifier that includes a uniform resource identifier and a contract for describing one or more behaviors of the window update service.
- 12. The terminal service of Claim 6, further comprising a keyboard service with a port identifiable by an identifier that includes a uniform resource identifier and a contract for describing one or more behaviors of the keyboard service.
- 13. The terminal service of Claim 12, wherein the keyboard service includes an data service for containing keyboard events generated by a keyboard, the data service being capable of responding to queries to remove keyboard events for processing.
- 14. The terminal service of Claim 6, further comprising a mouse service, the mouse service including a port identifiable by an identifier that includes a uniform resource identifier and a contract for describing one or more behaviors of the mouse service.

MSFT\21952AP.DOC -24-

- 15. The terminal service of Claim 14, wherein the mouse service includes a data service for containing mouse events generated by a mouse, the data service being capable of responding to queries to remove mouse events for processing.
- 16. A computer-implemented method for processing input/output events by devices as services, the method comprising:

requesting a service representing a device for an input/output event, the service including a port identifiable by an identifier that includes a uniform resource identifier and a contract for describing one or more behaviors of the service;

receiving a customizable, tag-based message that contains the input/output event; and requesting the service to remove the input/output event.

- 17. The method of Claim 16, further comprising requesting the service for creating a window, the act of creating a window creating a window service with a port identifiable by an identifier that includes a uniform resource identifier and a contract for describing one or more behaviors of the window service.
- 18. The method of Claim 17, further comprising requesting the service for refreshing the window, the act of requesting invoking a window update service, which repaints the window.
- 19. The method of Claim 16, further comprising requesting the service to change a cursor shape, the act of requesting invoking a cursor shape service, which changes the shape of the cursor.
- 20. The method of Claim 16, further comprising requesting the service to change a position of a cursor, the act of requesting invoking a cursor position service, which changes the position of the cursor.
- 21. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for implementing a computer-implemented method for processing input/output events by devices as services, the method comprising:

MSFT21952AP.DOC -25-

requesting a service representing a device for an input/output event, the service including a port identifiable by an identifier that includes a uniform resource identifier and a contract for describing one or more behaviors of the service;

receiving a customizable, tag-based message that contains the input/output event; and requesting the service to remove the input/output event.

- 22. The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, further comprising requesting the service for creating a window, the act of creating a window creating a window service with a port identifiable by an identifier that includes a uniform resource identifier and a contract for describing one or more behaviors of the window service.
- 23. The computer-readable medium of Claim 22, further comprising requesting the service for refreshing the window, the act of requesting invoking a window update service, which repaints the window.
- 24. The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, further comprising requesting the service to change a cursor shape, the act of requesting invoking a cursor shape service, which changes the shape of the cursor.
- 25. The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, further comprising requesting the service to change a position of a cursor, the act of requesting invoking a cursor position service, which changes the position of the cursor.
- 26. In a networked system, a device that is a computer subsystem, comprising: one or more services executing in the device, each service including a port identifiable by an identifier that includes a uniform resource identifier, the device being capable of coupling to the networked system to exchange customizable, tag-based messages.